

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 LONDON 14893 01 OF 02 181705Z

45

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-20 RSC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01

COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01 DRC-01 /116 W

----- 032774

R 181645Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6553

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 14893

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, UK, PINT

SUBJECT: TRADE UNION MEMBERS OF LABOR PARTY'S
NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

REF: STATE 245035

1. IN RESPONSE TO REFTEL, HERE IS A RUNDOWN OF THE
TWELVE MEMBERS OF THE TRADE UNION DIVISION OF THE
LABOR PARTY'S NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (NEC)
GIVING THEIR NAMES, UNION AFFILIATION, VOTES RECEIVED
AT LAST ANNUAL CONFERENCE, AND COMMENTARY ON THEIR
POLITICAL ORIENTATION. LABELS (RIGHT OR LEFT WING)
ARE CRUDE INDICATORS ONLY AND WOULD NEED TO BE
REFINED ISSUE-BY-ISSUE.

(1) SIDNEY WEIGHELL, NATIONAL UNION OF RAILWAYMEN;
5,114,000; RIGHT WING; VOTED NO ON MAY 30 WHEN NEC
NARROWLY APPROVED PROPOSAL TO NATIONALIZE TWENTY-FIVE
LEADING MANUFACTURING FIRMS (LONDON 6354).

(2) WALTER PADLEY, M.P., UNION OF SHOP, DISTRIBUTIVE,
AND ALLIED WORKERS; 4,952,000; RIGHT WING;
VOTED NO ON MAY 30.

(3) RT. HON. FRED W. MULLEY, M.P., CLERICAL AND
ADMINISTRATIVE WORKERS' UNION; 4,912,000; RIGHT WING;
ABSENT ON MAY 30 BUT WOULD HAVE VOTED NO.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 LONDON 14893 01 OF 02 181705Z

(4) LEN FORDEN, TRANSPORT AND GENERAL WORKERS'

UNION; 4,811,000; LEFT WING; ABSENT ON MAY 30 BUT
WOULD HAVE VOTED YES.

(5) BILL SIMPSON, AMALGAMATED UNION OF ENGINEER-
ING WORKERS, FOUNDRY SECTION; 4,774,000; MIDDLE-OF-
THE-ROAD; ABSTAINED ON MAY 30.

(6) JOHN CHALMERS, AMALGAMATED SOCIETY OF
BOILERMAKERS; 4,763,000; MIDDLE-OF-THE-ROAD; ABSTAINED
ON MAY 30.

(7) SID VINCENT, NATIONAL UNION OF MINeworkERS;
4,617,000; RIGHT WING; NEW MEMBER HANDPICKED BY
PREDECESSOR, JOE GORMLEY, PRESIDENT OF NUM.

(8) H.E. HICKLING, NATIONAL UNION OF GENERAL AND
MUNICIPAL WORKERS; 4,434,000; RIGHT WING; MEDIOCRE
NEW MEMBER HANDPICKED BY DAVID BASNETT, GENERAL
SECRETARY OF NUGMW, AS A COMPROMISE CANDIDATE.

(9) JOHN FORRESTER, AMALGAMATED UNION OF
ENGINEERING WORKERS, TECHNICAL AND SUPERVISORY
SECTION; 4,414,000; LEFT WING, ACTIVE IN TRIBUNE GROUP;
ABSENT ON MAY 30 BUT WOULD HAVE VOTED YES.

(10) ALEX KITSON, SCOTTISH COMMERCIAL MOTORMEN'S
UNION; 4,185,000; LEFT WING, ACTIVE IN TRIBUNE GROUP;
ABSENT ON MAY 30, BUT WOULD HAVE VOTED YES.

(11) TOM BRADLEY, M.P., TRANSPORT SALARIED
STAFFS' ASSOCIATION; 3,874,000; RIGHT WING, CLOSE
ASSOCIATE OF ROY JENKINS; ABSENT ON MAY 30 BUT WOULD
HAVE VOTED NO.

(12) BRYAN STANLEY, POST OFFICE ENGINEERING
UNION; 2,056,000; LEFT WING; ABLE, ARTICULATE, YOUNG
NEW MEMBER.

2. SIMPSON AND CHALMERS ARE ESSENTIALLY RIGHT WING
N/A
SOHM

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 LONDON 14893 02 OF 02 181704Z

45
ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-20 RSC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01

COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01 DRC-01 /116 W

----- 032786

R 181645Z DEC 73
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6554

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 02 OF 02 LONDON 14893

REPRESENTATIVES OF LEFT WING UNIONS AND HAVE TO TRIM THEIR SAILS ACCORDINGLY. OTHERWISE, IN BROAD TERMS, NEC MEMBERS TEND TO REFLECT GENERAL POLITICAL ORIENTATION OF UNIONS THEY REPRESENT, E.G, WEIGHELL GENERALLY VOTES WITH THE RIGHT ON THE NEC AS DOES HIS UNION'S PRESIDENT, SIR SIDNEY GREENE, ON THE TUC GENERAL COUNCIL. OVERALL POLITICAL BALANCE OF TWELVE TRADE UNION REPRESENTATIVES ON NEC ROUGHLY CORRESPONDS TO POLITICAL BALANCE OF 37-MEMBER TUC GENERAL COUNCIL.

3. TRADE UNIONS UNDERSTANDABLY ATTACH FAR MORE POLITICAL IMPORTANCE TO TUC GENERAL COUNCIL THAN THEY DO TO NEC. (JOE GORMLEY, PRESIDENT OF MINEWORKERS' UNION, RESIGNED HIS SEAT ON NEC THIS YEAR IN ORDER TO GAIN A SEAT ON GENERAL COUNCIL.) AS A RESULT, UNION REPRESENTATIVES ON NEC ARE, FOR THE MOST PART, SECOND-LEVEL OFFICIALS, WHO CARRY LESS THAN THEIR FAIR WEIGHT IN NEC DELIBERATIONS.

4. FOREGOING ASSESSMENT OF UNION REPRESENTATIVES ON NEC IS BASED ON EMBASSY OBSERVATIONS OVER PAST EIGHTEEN MONTHS. IN VIEW OF DEPARTMENT INTEREST, EMBASSY WILL PAY INCREASED ATTENTION TO QUESTIONS RAISED REFTEL AND REPORT FURTHER AS SEEMS APPROPRIATE.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 LONDON 14893 02 OF 02 181704Z

SOHM

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LABOR UNIONS, POLITICAL PARTIES, LABOR UNION OFFICIALS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 DEC 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: mcintyresh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973LONDON14893
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731219/aaaaanax.tel
Line Count: 155
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 245035
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: mcintyresh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 JUL 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25-Jul-2001 by willialc>; APPROVED <17-Sep-2001 by mcintyresh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TRADE UNION MEMBERS OF LABOR PARTY'S NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
TAGS: ELAB, PINT, UK
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005